



Arkansas Continuity
Of Operations Program

ACOOP News

August 24, 2009
Issue 7 Volume 1

With the new school year back in full swing, it is a possibility that your family may not always be at the same place at the same time. In this issue of ACOOP News we will take a look at family emergency planning to keep your family prepared and informed during any disaster.

Family Emergency Plan

- ✓ Identify an out-of town contact. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.
- ✓ Be sure every member of your family knows the out-of-town contact phone number and has a cell phone, coins, or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact. If you have a cell phone, program that person(s) as "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) in your phone. If you are in an accident, emergency personnel will often check your ICE listings in order to get hold of someone you know. Make sure to tell your family and friends that you've listed them as emergency contacts.
- ✓ Teach family members how to use text messaging (also known as SMS or Short Message Service). Text messages can often get around network disruptions when a phone call might not be able to get through.
- ✓ Subscribe to alert services. Many communities now have systems that will send instant text alerts or e-mails to let you know about bad weather, road closings, local emergencies, etc. Sign up by visiting your local Office of Emergency Management web site.

Planning to Stay or Go

Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency, the first important decision you will make is whether you stay where you are or to evacuate. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and available information, including what you are learning in this newsletter, to determine if there are any immediate dangers. In any emergency, local authorities may or may not be able to immediately provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should watch TV, listen to the radio, or check the Internet often for information or official instruction as it becomes available.

Emergency Information

Find out what kinds of disasters, both natural and man-made, are most likely to occur in your area and how you will be notified. Methods of getting your attention vary from community to community. One common method used is to broadcast via emergency radio and TV broadcasts. You might hear a special siren, or get a telephone call, or emergency workers may go door-to-door.

Emergency Plans

Use the New Online Family Emergency Planning Tool created by the Ready Campaign in conjunction with the Ad Council to prepare a printable Comprehensive Family Emergency Plan:

<http://ready.adcouncil.org/beprepared/fep/index.jsp>

Use the New Quick Share application to help your family in assembling a quick reference list of contact information for your family, and a meeting place for emergency situations:

<http://ready.adcouncil.org/beprepared/quickshare.html>

You may also want to inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time. These places could include work, daycare or school. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one. Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together in the event of an emergency. You will be better prepared to safely reunite your family and loved ones during an emergency if you think ahead and communicate with others in advance.

Above source: www.ready.gov

Upcoming Events

Arkansas Statewide Preparedness Conference

September 14-15, 2009

For more information call: 501-661-7962 or E-Mail: cme@uams.edu

To make your hotel reservation at the DoubleTree Hotel call 501-372-4371.

Indicate that you are attending the Arkansas Statewide Preparedness Conference.

Hotel conference rate: \$89.00 single/double

The cost to attend the conference is \$50.00.

To register online, follow the link <http://cmetracker.net/UAMS/doPostCatalog.htm>

ACOOOP Training Schedule

ACOOOP New User

Learn the components of building continuity of operations plans and how to use the Living Disaster Recovery Planning System (LDRPS)

September 9, 2009 8:30-12:00

Pandemic Flu – facts, planning, & exercises

A good class for planners & staff! Learn about the different types of flu, why pandemic flu is a threat and how we can prepare.

August 26, 2009 8:30-12:00

September 30, 2009 8:30-12:00

ACOOOP Refresher

Maybe it has been a while since you worked with your COOP plan or you just have questions about COOP, bring them and catch up on your planning.

September 23, 2009 8:30-12:00

ACOOOP Workshop

Need an afternoon to work on your COOP plan with some guidance? Workshops are held after every class session in the DIS training room.

August 26, 2009 1:00-4:00

September 9, 2009 1:00-4:00

September 23, 2009 1:00-4:00

September 30, 2009 1:00-4:00

To register or ask about the location of these classes contact Amber Styles-Emberson:

amber.styles-emberson@arkansas.gov or calling 501-683-0502.

Unless noted otherwise, all training sessions are held in the MAC Building, #1 Capitol Mall, DIS 3rd floor training room

We are available by appointment to help you with your plans individually and we can customize training to fit the needs of your agency or district.